ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST
Purpose of Checklist

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.
You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the question from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or it a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the question now may avoid unnecessary delays later.
Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.
The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for non-project proposals:

Complete this checklist for non-project proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NON-PROJECT ACTIONS (part D).
For non-project actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: None.

2. Name of applicant: Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

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WSDA Noxious Weed Program
21 N. 1st Ave., Room 103
Yakima, WA 98902
(509) 225-2604

4. Date checklist prepared: May 25, 2002.

5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington State Department of Agriculture

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Between June 15, 2002 and June 15, 2007.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No. However, noxious weed control work is generally needed on an annual basis until the seed bank is exhausted and elimination of the targeted species from the site is accomplished.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture, the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board prepared the Noxious Emergent Plant Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in November 1993.

Copies of the EIS are available for review at the Washington State Library, Capitol Campus, 16th Ave. & Water St., Olympia Washington; at the Washington State Department of Ecology, Regional Libraries, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, Washington; and at the Washington State Department of Agriculture, Noxious Weed Office, 21 N. 1st Ave., Room 103, Yakima, Washington.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Washington State Department of Ecology, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects

of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The 1995 Washington State Legislature (Chapter 255, Laws of 1995) directed WSDA to facilitate the control of purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria and L. virgatum*) in Washington State. In addition, Chapters 17.04, 17.06 and 17.10, Revised Code of Washington, direct landowners and managers to control noxious weed infestations that occur on their properties. To accomplish this end, the WSDA encourages an Integrated Weed Management (IWM) approach, as outlined in the Noxious Emergent Plant Management Environmental Impact Statement published in November of 1993. IWM allows for a treatment method to be selected on the basis of maximizing efficacy while minimizing negative impacts. IWM employs physical, mechanical, biological, and chemical treatment methods; including hand pulling, digging, covering, mowing, and spraying with the herbicides Rodeo® (glyphosate) and 2,4-D in the dimethyl amine formulation. Rodeo® is mixed with a surfactant; either LI-700, R-11, X-77, or a registered surfactant within these chemical families. Herbicide is applied by wicking/wiping, hand spraying with backpack sprayers or boat or vehicle mounted sprayers or with aerial applications where it is deemed appropriate. Spray pattern indicator dye may also be used to assist in reducing the amount of chemical applied by marking treated plants and preventing re-treatment. The dye must be applied at the lowest mix rate practical and must not be used in anadromous salmonid waters prior to the completion of out migration.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The proposal includes all water bodies of the state of Washington that are infested with freshwater emergent noxious and quarantined weed species. Bodies of water that have the potential for infestation and resultant treatment are also listed. See attachment "A."

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (underline one): Flat, rolling hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other -

Freshwater emergent noxious weeds generally grow in flat, aquatic and semi-aquatic sites including marshes, wetlands, wet pastures and in and along water courses. Occasional plants may occur on steeper slopes.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Generally less than 5% for wetland areas, intermittent plants are located on steeper slopes.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Freshwater emergent weeds can survive in many soil types that are normally associated with wetlands. This varies somewhat by area of the state and the site involved. For instance, along river edges, soils are often gravely or sandy; while around lake edges and emergent wetlands the soils are much finer.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Unknown

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Does Not Apply

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Erosion may occur due to the removal of roots, which tend to stabilize soils. The relatively non-selective properties of Rodeo® may also contribute to erosion by removing grasses and other plants that tend to stabilize soils. The potential for erosion will diminish as native grasses and other plants re-inhabit the site.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Does Not Apply

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

None

2. **Air**

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

There is the potential for some aerial drifting of the spray during application. There will be no emissions after the project is completed.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Applicators will follow label directions for wind restrictions when applying herbicides and any additional restrictions imposed by WSDA upon the use of 2,4-D to minimize drift.

3. **Water**

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Yes. See attachment "A."

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes, the herbicides glyphosate and/or 2,4-D will be applied to freshwater emergent noxious weeds along the edges of some of the water bodies listed in attachment “A.”. Methods of application include hand wiping, wicking, backpack sprayers and boat and vehicle mounted sprayers and aerial application.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Does Not Apply

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100 year flood plain? If so, note location on the site plan.

It is possible, given the nature of the sites where freshwater emergent plants occur.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or

other sources, if any (for example: domestic sewage; industrial waste containing the following chemicals . . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Rain may create storm water run-off, which could enter the immediate area of the proposed water bodies.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Does Not Apply

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

None

4. **Plants**

a. Check or underline types of vegetation found on the site:

_X_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
_X_ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
_X_ shrubs
_X_ grass
_X_ pasture
_X_ crop or grain
_X_ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other
_X_ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
___ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Freshwater emergent noxious and quarantined weeds such as Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) will be treated with the herbicides Rodeo® (glyphosate) or 2,4-D. All reasonable precautions will be taken to avoid impacting non-targeted vegetation.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The following state listed species have the potential to be on or near wetland sites: yellow lady's-slipper (E), howellia (E), twayblade (E), Kalm's lobelia (E), Washington polemonium (E), persistentsepal yellowcress (E), Oregon, Nelson's and hairy-stemmed checker mallow (E), Jessica's aster (T), Clackamas corydalis (T), white eatonella (T), Howell's daisy (T), Oregon coyote-thistle (T), adders tongue (T),

Choris' bog orchid (T), pale blue-eyed grass (T). Refer to the Noxious Emergent Plant Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published November 1993.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

It is desirable, but not mandatory, that re-vegetation projects using native species occur at treatment sites.

5. **Animals**

a. Underline any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:
birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: many waterfowl species.
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other;
fish: bass, salmonids, trout, herring, shellfish, other;
Refer to the Noxious Emergent Plant Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published November 1993.

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The following Threatened (T) or Endangered (E) species may occur on or near some sites or adjacent uplands: Salmonids (E&T), Bull Trout (E&T), American white pelican (E), bald eagle (T), ferruginous hawk (T), sandhill crane (E), peregrine falcon (E), western pond turtle (E), Columbian white-tailed deer (E), lynx (T). Refer to the Noxious Emergent Plant Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published November 1993.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Salmonids and steelhead migrate past some sites along rivers and streams. Waterfowl from the Pacific Flyway may utilize some sites.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

It is not anticipated that any threatened or endangered species will be adversely affected by this proposal. Actions taken to limit the expansion and reduce existing population levels of these exotic weed species will help to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat by reducing the degradation of native wetlands by these species.

6. **Energy and Natural Resources**

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Gasoline engines on some spray vehicles, electric batteries used in some spray equipment.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Does Not Apply

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Does Not Apply

7. **Environmental Health**

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Yes, exposure of applicators to the herbicides during mixing and application, and some potential for spills. The potential for health hazards associated with glyphosate and 2,4-D are addressed in Elements F and G respectively of the EIS referred to in Section A, item #8 of this SEPA checklist. According to the EIS, there is minimal potential for significant adverse impacts on human health in projects of this type.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

In the unlikely event of a major spill, the Dept. of Ecology's "spill response" team.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Mixing and application of herbicides are to be done in accordance to the label.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Short-term noise from the application equipment during normal working hours.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None

8. **Land and Shoreline Use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Varies by site. Uses include recreation, irrigation, agriculture, grazing, and wildlife habitat.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Wetland and riparian areas infested with freshwater emergent weeds are not generally used directly for agricultural purposes. However, adjacent areas sometimes are used. Agricultural uses include livestock production, crop production (row crops, grass, hay), nurseries, vineyards, orchards, etc.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Piers or docks, boat houses, etc. could be found along shorelines near treatment sites.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Does Not Apply

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Does Not Apply

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Does Not Apply

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Although no legal definition exists at this time many riparian and wetland areas are considered "environmentally sensitive" by some governmental agencies. Refer to the Noxious Emergent Plant Management EIS published November 1993.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Does Not Apply

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Does Not Apply

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

This project is part of a statewide effort to prevent the loss of wetland resources due to the introduction and spread of exotic freshwater emergent noxious weed species. All species targeted for treatment are on the Washington State Noxious Weed List or the Washington State Department of Agriculture Quarantine Lists.

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does Not Apply

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does Not Apply

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Does Not Apply

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Does Not Apply

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Does Not Apply

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Does Not Apply

11. **Light and Glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Does Not Apply

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Does Not Apply

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Does Not Apply

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Does Not Apply

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

There is a wide range of recreational activities available in the immediate vicinity of some control sites, including fishing, hunting, and boating.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Transient effects on recreation during application of herbicides may occur. Recreational activities will be enhanced by the removal of invasive plant species.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

None

13. **Historic and Cultural Preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

Unknown. The Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation was contacted and they indicated that there are several thousand such sites in Washington State. Mitigation measures are addressed in element "c" below.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

Unknown, see element "a" above.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

According to the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (WSOAHP), chemical application of herbicides to freshwater emergent plants would have little or no impact upon these types of sites. Applicants applying for coverage under WSDA's permit will be instructed to cause as little physical impact as possible at treatment sites to mitigate impacts upon the area in general. If it is known that any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state or local preservation registers occur at a treatment site, the applicant will be instructed to contact the WSOAHP office. Applicants will also be advised to contact local Native American organizations if there is the potential for disturbing

traditional Native American gathering sites. All herbicides will be applied according to label and permit requirements.

14. **Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Does Not Apply

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Does Not Apply

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Does Not Apply

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

None

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Does Not Apply

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Does Not Apply

16. Utilities

a. Underline utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

Does Not Apply

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Does Not Apply

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: . . . . . .

Date Submitted: . . . . . .